

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-10. (Cancelled)**

**11. (Currently amended)** A needle crystal comprising a C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative and C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules, which is single crystalline and having a hollow structural portion.

**12-13. (Cancelled)**

**14. (Currently amended)** The needle crystal as claimed in ~~Claim 12~~ Claim 11, having an end that is closed or open.

**15. (Cancelled)**

**16. (Currently amended)** The needle crystal as claimed in ~~Claim 10 or 11~~ Claim 11, wherein the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative is ( $\eta^2$ -C<sub>60</sub>)Pt(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

**17. (Cancelled)**

**18. (Currently amended)** A method for preparing a needle crystal comprising a C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative and C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules that is single crystalline and having a hollow structural portion by a liquid-liquid interfacial precipitation method, which comprises (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative and the C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules therein, wherein the amount of the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative to be added is in the range of 1-10 mass % for the C<sub>60</sub> fullerene molecules, is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent; (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; and (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface.

**19. (Currently amended)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in ~~Claim 17 or 18~~ Claim 18, wherein the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative is ( $\eta^2$ -C<sub>60</sub>)Pt(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

**20. (Currently amended)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in ~~Claim 17 or 18~~ Claim 18, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

**21. (Currently amended)** The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in ~~Claim 17 or 18~~ Claim 18, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.

**22. (Previously presented)** A C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon.

**23. (Previously presented)** The C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having a hollow structural portion.

**24. (Previously presented)** The C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having an end that is closed or open.

**25. (Currently amended)** A method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon, which comprises:

- (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent;
- (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; and
- (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface; and
- (4) a step in which a vacuum thermal treatment at 600°C or higher or an irradiation of an electron beam with high energy of 100 keV or higher at room temperature is carried out for the carbon fine wire.

**26. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the C<sub>60</sub> platinum derivative is  $(\eta^2\text{-C}_{60})\text{Pt}(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ .

**27. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

**28. (Previously presented)** The method for preparing a C<sub>60</sub> fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.